

Claim Amendments

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A molded article made from a composition comprising:

at least one thermoplastic elastomer having at least one elastomeric phase and at least one thermoplastic phase, wherein the at least one thermoplastic phase consisting essentially of at least one propylene-based polymer and the at least one elastomer phase comprises a styrenic copolymer rubber phase or an at least partially crosslinked ethylene-propylene-diene rubber phase; and

~~at least one nucleating agent~~ an organic phosphate ester salt, sodium benzoate, a norbornane carboxylic acid salt, and a nucleating talc as a combination of nucleating agents for formation of nucleation sites for crystal growth within the thermoplastic phase of the thermoplastic elastomer, ~~wherein the nucleating agent is selected from the group consisting of an acrylic acid-grafted polypropylene, a norbornane carboxylic acid salt, a nucleating talc, and combinations thereof, and~~

wherein the molded article has been molded from the thermoplastic elastomer and the nucleating agent ~~has~~ agents have enhanced the rate of crystal formation in the thermoplastic phase of the thermoplastic elastomer during cooling of the thermoplastic elastomer to achieve a solid crystal structure for the molded article in a shorter time as compared to melt-processing of the thermoplastic elastomer into the molded article without the nucleating agent.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The molded article of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer comprises at least two chemically distinct thermoplastic phases.

4. (Previously Presented) The molded article of claim 3,

wherein the thermoplastic phase comprises a continuous phase and the elastomer phase comprises a discontinuous phase dispersed in the continuous thermoplastic phase.

5. (Currently Amended) The molded article of claim 4, wherein the composition comprises about 0.005% to about 5% by weight nucleating ~~agent~~ agents based on total weight of the thermoplastic phase in the thermoplastic elastomer.

6. (Previously Presented) The molded article of claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer comprises at least one thermoplastic phase of polypropylene; and wherein the thermoplastic elastomer comprises styrene-butadiene (SB) rubber, styrene-ethylene-butadiene-styrene (SEBS) rubber, styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene (SEPS) rubber, styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS) rubber, styrene-ethylene-ethylene-propylene-styrene (SEEPS) rubber, styrene propylene-styrene (SPS) rubber, hydrogenated versions of the foregoing, or combinations thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) The molded article of claim 6, wherein the article has enhanced transparency as compared to an article formed from a composition without the nucleating ~~agent~~ agents.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of using a combination of nucleating ~~agent~~ agents to enhance rate of formation of a solid crystal structure in a thermoplastic elastomer being molded into an article, comprising the steps of:

adding an organic phosphate ester salt, sodium benzoate, a norbornane carboxylic acid salt, and a nucleating talc as a combination of nucleating agents a nucleating agent, selected from the group consisting of an acrylic acid-grafted polypropylene, a norbornane carboxylic acid salt, a nucleating talc, and combinations thereof, to a thermoplastic phase of a thermoplastic elastomer to form the thermoplastic elastomer composition referred to in claim 1;

molding the thermoplastic elastomer composition into the article;

permitting the thermoplastic elastomer composition in the article to cool, wherein the nucleating ~~agent stimulates~~ agents stimulate formation of a solid crystal structure within the thermoplastic phase of the thermoplastic elastomer composition more rapidly than if the nucleating ~~agent~~ agents were not present.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer comprises at least two chemically distinct thermoplastic phases.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the thermoplastic phase comprises a continuous phase and the elastomer phase comprises a discontinuous phase dispersed in the continuous thermoplastic phase.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the composition comprises about 0.005% to about 5% by weight nucleating ~~agent~~ agents based on total weight of the thermoplastic phase in the thermoplastic elastomer.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer comprises at least one thermoplastic phase of polypropylene; and wherein the thermoplastic elastomer comprises styrene-butadiene (SB) rubber, styrene-ethylene-butadiene-styrene (SEBS) rubber, styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene (SEPS) rubber, styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS) rubber, styrene-ethylene-ethylene-propylene-styrene (SEEPS) rubber, styrene propylene-styrene (SPS) rubber, hydrogenated versions of the foregoing, or combinations thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the article has enhanced transparency as compared to an article formed from a composition without the nucleating ~~agent~~ agents.